

this settlement. He had emigrated from Connecticut, and came to this place by-way of Cooperstown. He had previously been here, purchased the farm where his widow now lives, made some improvement, and built a log-house on an old road which was constructed north of the present turnpike. He had then a family of three children. He subsequently became a minister in the Baptist Church, as we shall have occasion to notice. He died in this town at an advanced age.

This year Mr. Jirah Mumford completed a grist-mill and a saw-mill. This was considered a great acquisition to this new settlement. They were located near where Mr. Edward M. Atwater now has a saw-mill. The grist-mill was about twenty feet square. It had one run of stones, which were about three feet in diameter. It had one bolt about seven feet long. The meal was taken by hand and poured into the bolt, which the miller turned with a crank. The saw-mill, by diligent use, and a full head of water, would saw about 700 feet per day. Yet these were the only mills within twenty-five or thirty miles, and they were often rendered useless in the winter season.

1796. This year Mr. Benjamin King came to this place from the Paupack settlement. He was then a young, unmarried man, and purchased the farm now owned by Mr. George Moose. He built the house and barn now standing upon the place, and occupied the farm about twenty years. He is still living in this vicinity, at an advanced age.

His brother, Mr. Charles King, came at the same time, and a few years after bought and cultivated a farm, east of the late Benjamin Wheeler's residence.

This year, also, Mr. Samuel Meredith, a man of wealth in Philadelphia, began to make improvements in this town. He first built an ashery, for making pot and pearlash. This enterprise, however, failed. He had invested a large part of his fortune in a tract of land in this region. Not finding as ready sale for this land as he expected, he retired from the city, and built in the west part of this town a well-finished house, at a cost of about six thousand dollars. He named the place of his residence Belmont, which name it has retained to this day.

His father, whose name was Reese Meredith, settled in Philadelphia at an early day. He was from England, and a Welshman by birth. In his own country he was a man of rank and wealth. He warmly espoused the cause of the American Colonies. His first interview with General Washington was when he held the office of Colonel in the Virginia troops. He at once formed a high opinion of him, and was ever after his firm and intimate friend. In the most trying period of the war, when the faith of many wavered, he boldly encouraged its prosecution. When the army were suffering for food and clothing, he promptly came to their relief, and freely contributed the sum of five thousand pounds sterling. At the close of the war, when Washington was called to the Presidential chair, he promoted his son, Samuel Mar-